

**Advent Midweek Vespers Service  
December 13, 2023  
Heritage Lutheran Church  
Apple Valley, MN  
6:30 p.m.**



**1. Welcome**

**2. The Confession Of Sin and Absolution:**

**Pastor** Dearly Beloved, we have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

**Congregation** Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.

**Pastor** The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**3. Hymn #111 "When Sinners See Their Lost Condition" (verses 1-4,8)**

1 When sinners see their lost condition  
And feel the pressing load of sin,  
And Jesus cometh on His mission  
To heal the sin-sick heart within,  
All grief must flee before His grace,  
And joy divine will take its place.

2 When Jesus enters meek and lowly  
To fill the home with sweetest peace;  
When hearts have felt His blessing holy  
And found from sin complete release;  
Then light and calm within shall reign  
And hearts divided love again.

3 When Jesus enters land and nation,  
And moves the people with His love;  
When, yielding to His kind persuasion,  
Our hearts His truth and blessing prove,  
Then shall our life on earth be blest,  
The peace of God on us shall rest.

4 When Jesus comes, O blessed story!  
He works a change in heart and life;  
God's kingdom comes with pow'r and glory  
To young and old, to man and wife;  
Through Sacrament and living Word  
Faith, love, and hope are now conferred.

8 Behold, He at the door is calling,  
O heed, my soul, what He doth say;  
Deny Him not--O thought appalling--  
And turn Him not from thee away.  
My soul gives answer deep within:  
Thou blessed of the Lord, come in.

#### 4. The Versicles and Gloria Patri

**Pastor** O Lord, Open my lips.

♪ **Congregation** And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

**Pastor** Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

♪ **Congregation** Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: forevermore, Amen.

#### 5. Psalm 24 (*read responsively by whole verse*)

<sup>1</sup> Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;

<sup>2</sup> from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock  
that is higher than I,

<sup>3</sup> for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

<sup>4</sup> Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! *Selah*

<sup>5</sup> For you, O God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your  
name.

<sup>6</sup> Prolong the life of the king; may his years endure to all generations!

<sup>7</sup> May he be enthroned forever before God; appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over  
him!

<sup>8</sup> So will I ever sing praises to your name, as I perform my vows day after day.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and  
ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

#### 6. Scripture Lesson: *Isaiah 40:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her  
warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double  
for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the  
desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made  
low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of  
the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has

spoken." <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup> Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" <sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup> He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

**7. A Responsory page 122**

**Pastor** O Lord, have mercy upon us.

♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to You, O Lord!

**8. Hymn #102 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"**

1 "Comfort, comfort ye My people,  
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God.  
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover,  
And her warfare now is over."

2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,  
Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger  
He will no more see or heed.  
She hath suffered many a day;  
Now her griefs have passed away.  
God will change her pining sadness  
Into ever-springing gladness.

3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Bidding all men to repentance,  
Since the kingdom now is here.  
Oh that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him  
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;  
Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble  
As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That His Word is never broken.

**9. Sermon "God's Tender Message" *Isaiah 40:1-11***

**10. The Offering**

**11. The Versicle & Canticle**

**Pastor** Let my prayers rise before you as incense:

♪ **Congregation** And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

## 12. The Nunc Dimittis

♪ **Congregation** Lord, now You let your servant depart in peace according to Your Word  
For my eyes have seen Your Salvation which you have prepared before the face of all people.  
A Light to lighten the Gentiles; and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end, Amen.

## 13. The Prayers, beginning with The Kyrie

♪ **Congregation** Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

## 14. The Lord's Prayer

♪ **Congregation** Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## 15. Luther's Evening Prayer

**Congregation** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray You to forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## 16. The Benedicamus & Benediction

**Pastor** Let us bless the Lord.

♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to God.

**Pastor** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

♪ **Congregation** Amen.

## 17. Closing Hymn #570 "Now The Light Has Gone Away"

1 Now the light has gone away;  
Father, listen while I pray,  
Asking Thee to watch and keep  
And to send me quiet sleep.

2 Jesus, Savior, wash away  
All that has been wrong today.  
Help me ev'ry day to be  
Good and gentle, more like Thee.

3 Let my near and dear ones be  
Always near and dear to Thee.  
Oh, bring me and all I love  
To Thy happy home above.

4 Now my evening praise I give;  
Thou didst die that I might live.  
All my blessings come from Thee--  
O how good Thou art to me!

5 Jesus, best and kindest Friend,  
Thou wilt love me to the end.  
Spirit blest, whom I adore,  
Let me love Thee more and more.

## Announcements

**Advent Midweek Worship** – Join us at 6:30 pm each Wednesday for our midweek Advent Worship service. We will have one more midweek service on December 20<sup>th</sup>. We will have supper before the service at 5:15 pm.

**Call Meeting** – We will have a call meeting this Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> between services.

**TLC Christmas Gathering** – Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at Jane Fahning's home (16242 Dutch Barn Drive) at 5:30 p.m. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. All women of the congregation are welcome.

**Women's Bible Study** – The Monday Evening Bible Class is studying Ecclesiastes. They meet at church at 6:30 pm. Contact Ruth Braun if you would like more information. We will reconvene on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Men's Bible Study** – Men's Bible study will reconvene after the New Year.

**Meditations** – The new meditations are available on the welcome stand.

**Fellowship** - Volunteers are always needed to provide fellowship food every Sunday. Please sign up on the volunteer board.

**Choir** – The choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. New members are always welcome!



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